

# Early Lancaster Artists.

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The following sketches were prepared in connection with the recent exhibition of Lancaster county portraiture:

## Ferdinand Huck.

Lancaster is one of the oldest inland cities in the United States, and has naturally developed into a settlement of conservative family life and a Mecca of valued family possessions. These possessions, especially the family portraits, prove that Lancaster is far from the matter-of-fact place it is generally thought to be, and that the people of Lancaster have always possessed the sense of beauty and a feeling and love for the best in art.

The first artist in Lancaster of whom there is any record is Ferdinand Hück, who came from Mayence, Germany, in 1729.

Several body water-colors and two oils are in existence, one a small portrait of himself, painted on wood, and the other an original conception of the Crucifixion. This was painted for the Catholic Mission, established in 1741, saved from fire and used as a mural decoration for the stone edifice that arose above the ashes of the primitive early building.

Probably there were too many Indians about Lancaster at that time for Ferdinand to pursue the Goddess Art without interference. He moved to Baltimore, where his descendants now live and prosper.

It is only a matter of conjecture, but an interesting point for genealo-

gists to discover whether Ferdinand Hück is a descendant or a grand-nephew of the famous painter of Dutch interiors, Pieter de Hooch.

### **Adam Mortimer Lightner.**

Adam Mortimer Lightner, a young American artist, was born in the year 1814. He was the son of Nathaniel Free Lightner and Maria Carpenter Ellmaker Lightner, who was a daughter of Peter Baker Ellmaker and Susanna Carpenter Ellmaker, of Salisbury township, Lancaster county. He received his education at John Beck's Academy, Lititz, Lancaster county. At an early age he showed great talent as a portrait painter. His father sent him to Italy to perfect himself in the art of portrait painting, where he took lessons from the first masters of Italy. While in that country he was taken with hemorrhages, and, after his return to America, lived but a year, dying apparently a young man in his twenty-sixth year, October 11, 1840. He is awaiting the glorious resurrection morning with his father and mother in "Christ Episcopal Church-yard," Leacock township.

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